

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 06456 01 OF 02 201722Z

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 EB-04 EUR-08 NEA-07
EA-06 H-01 ARA-08 AF-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01
ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /072 W
-----201905Z 028674 /53

P 201519Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE ASHDC PRIORITY 4101

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6456

LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UN, EAID, EFIN, EAGR

SUBJECT: PERMANENT SITE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

1. MOST OF MY BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY, CHAIRMAN, OF THE IFAD PREPARATORY COMMISSION WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF THE PERMANENT SEAT OF IFAD. AL-SUDEARY SAID HIS EARLIER COMPROMISE SUGGESTION--ELECTING AN OPEC PRESIDENT AND LETTING THE SITE MOVE TO TEHRAN SOME YEARS FARTHER ON IF AT ALL, AT WHICH TIME THE PRESIDENCY MIGHT SHIFT TO ONE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES--HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO EITHER THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OR TO OPEC. IN ANY EVENT, HE URGED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STOP LINKING THE QUESTIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY AND THE SITE. HE SAID THIS IS ANTAGONIZING MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THAT IT IS NOT BASICALLY A SOUND POSITION, IN THAT THE PRESIDENCY CAN BE CHANGED FROM ONE COUNTRY OR CATEGORY OF COUNTRIES TO ANOTHER, WHILE THE SITE WILL REMAIN PERMANENT. EACH SHOULD BE DECIDED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

(NOTE: CHRISTIAN WILLE OF GERMANY, CHAIRMAN OF THE
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PAGE 02 ROME 06456 01 OF 02 201722Z

CATEGORY I DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DURING MEETINGS OF IFAD, WHO IS IN ROME TO ATTEND THE FAO FOOD SECURITY MEETING, TOLD THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THAT AL-SUDEARY WAS ANGRY THAT THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY HAD AGAIN STATED THE LINKAGE FORMULA STRONGLY IN THE CLOSING HOURS OF THE 3RD IFAD PREPARATORY COMMISSION MEETING.)

2. I STATED STRONGLY TO AL-SUDEARY THAT I AM MAINLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF UN OPERATIONS, LACK OF WHICH IS TROUBLING U.S. AND CONGRESSIONAL PUBLIC OPINION. FAO IS IN ROME, AND SO ARE THE OTHER MAJOR FOOD-AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS--THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. IFAD SHOULD ALSO BE LOCATED IN ROME FOR THIS SIMPLE REASON, TO FACILITATE COORDINATION AND INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY. IT IS NOT BECAUSE IT IS ROME, BUT BECAUSE THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE SITUATED IN ROME: IF THE OTHER BASIC FOOD-AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN SITUATED ELSEWHERE, THEN IFAD SHOULD BE SITUATED IN THE SAME PLACE.

3. I ASKED FOR AL-SUDEARY'S PERSONAL VIEW. HE CONCEDED THE VALIDITY OF MY ARGUMENT, BUT SAID THERE WERE OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER, MAINLY POLITICAL. HE SAID ALMOST ALL OF THE UN AGENCIES WERE SITUATED IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND IN MANY CASES THE TOP SECRETARIAT POST WAS ALSO HELD BY A DEVELOPED COUNTRY NATIONAL. THERE IS STRONG FEELING AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT IFAD'S PERMANENT SEAT SHOULD BE IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT A STUDY GROUP MIGHT BE ORGANIZED TO DETERMINE HOW EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT THE OPERATIONS MIGHT BE IN ANOTHER SITE, SUCH AS TEHRAN. I QUESTIONED THIS, HOWEVER, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE STUDY GROUP TO REACH ANY CONCLUSIONS, OR TO DEVELOP MUCH MORE THAN IS ALREADY KNOWN.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 06456 01 OF 02 201722Z

4. I ASKED HIM WHETHER IRAN MIGHT WITHHOLD ITS FUNDS FROM THE FUND IF IT DID NOT GAIN THE SITE. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIALS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO TEHRAN, AND ALL HAD ASSURED HIM THAT COM-WHAT-MAY THEY WOULD HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT. HE SAID THAT IN FACT IRAN WAS AT THE MOMENT IN THE PROCESS OF SIGNING THE IFAD AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 01 ROME 06456 02 OF 02 201741Z

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EA-06 H-01 ARA-08 AF-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /072 W

-----201905Z 028909 /53

P 201519Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 6456

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5. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

I URGE THAT WE RE-EXAMINE/ THE WAY WE PRESENT OUR POSITION ON THE SITE ISSUE, AND PARTICULARLY OUR LINKAGE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND SITE. IT WAS PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO RAISE THE LINKAGE IN A RIST STATE, TO DRIVE IT HOME THAT WE DID NOT WANT OPEC TO TAKE BOTH FROM THE OUTSET AND MAKE IFAD APPEAR TO BE AN OPEC INSTRUMENT, EVEN THOUGH OPEC IS CONTRIBUTING LESS TO THE FUND THAN ARE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. CONTINUING TO HOLD TO THIS POSITION, HOWEVER, MAY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. MANY OF THE OTHER CATEGORY I COUNTRIES DO NOT SHARE OUR VIEWS, E.G. GERMANY WHICH IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AL-SUDEARY AS PRESIDENT WITHOUT CONDITIONING IT ON A ROME SITE. THE ISSUE IS ALSO BEING DEFINED AS A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN WHICH WE WOULD OF COURSE BE OUTNUMBERED HEAVILY. IN ANY EVENT, AS I POINTED OUT TO AL-SUDEARY, THE ARGUMENT FOR ROME SHOULD BE BASED ON EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY, NOT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT IT HAPPENS TO BE THE CAPITAL OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME

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PAGE 02 ROME 06456 02 OF 02 201741Z

FAILURES IN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US AND THE IRANIANS. THE IRANIAN FLOOR-LEADER HERE IS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO MANSURI, AND AGRICULTRUE ATTACHE, WHOSE SUPERIOR, THE AMBASSADOR TO FAO, IS PRACTICALLY INACTIVE. MANSURI SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE NOTION OF WHAT WE HAVE SAID TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR THE THE SHAH. HE IS UNDER ORDERS TO PRESS THE ISSUE OF THE SEAT FOR TEHRAN, BUT HE SAYS QUITE CLEARLY THAT HE KNOWS HIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION, PARTICULARLY WITH THE UNITED STATES HEADING THE OTHER SIDE. I SUGGEST THAT WE RE-EXAMINE

OUR POSITION AND TACTICS, WITH A VIEW TO A) CLARIFYING
OUR POSITION WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, B) POSSIBLE
ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM AND SILENCE IN THE 4TH PREPARATORY
COMMISSION IN JULY ON THE ISSUES OF SITE AND THE PRO-
CEDURE OF SECRET VERSUS ROLL-CALL VOTE ON THE SITE,
AND C) TRYING TO FIND AT LEAST A TACTICAL XLUTION FOR
THE ISSUE IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING
COUNCIL IN THE FALL, WHICH MIGHT ENTAIL PROCEEDING WITH
THE ELECTION OF AL-SUDEARY AS PRESIDENT AND LEAVING THE
PERMANENT SITE QUESTION OPEN. I BELIEVE TIME WORKS ON
OUR SIDE--LONGER SITE QUESTION IS POSTPONED THE
MORE LIKELY IFAD WILL REMAIN HERE.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME06456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770137-0652
Format: TEL
From: ROME
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770437/aaaabgge.tel
Line Count: 182
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 8c10b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2747704
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERMANENT SITE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EAGR, US, UN, IFAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c10b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009